

QUESTION: Where and how can I use the GI Bill?

Background: NOAA Corps Officers may be eligible for GI Bill benefits. Currently, there are two active GI Bill programs, the Montgomery GI Bill and the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Using a GI Bill to pay for academic or technical training is a process that requires the individual to take the lead, but there are many resources available to help you meet your educational goals. This 'How To' guide will not cover the step by step process of using the GI Bill, but will direct you to the available resources. CPC has little involvement in this process, however, any documentation that is need by the Department of Veterans Affairs for service verification will be provided upon request.

Overview:

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB): Officers may elect to enroll for the MGIB upon appointment into the NOAA Corps. Officers pay \$100 per month for 12 months and are then entitled to receive a monthly education benefit once they have completed a minimum service obligation of typically three years of active duty ([eligibility information](#)). Those officers who elected not to enroll are not eligible for this benefit.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill: The Post 9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to officers with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001. As of August 1, 2009, the Post-9/11 GI Bill was effective for training. The Post 9/11 GI Bill also provides a transferability benefit for dependents.

Reference/Resources:

- Detailed information on GI Bill benefits is available at the following links:
[Montgomery GI Bill](#)
[Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)
- Program Comparisons: There are several differences and similarities between each of the GI Bills. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has an excellent comparison table that highlights the main differences: [Comparison Chart](#)
- Enrollment: The Montgomery GI Bill is the only educational assistance program that requires an active enrollment upon entry into service, as part of buying into the program. The Post-9/11 GI Bill requires only service records in the application process.
- Apply to Use Benefits: The VA website has an on-line application [portal](#). The Office of Financial Aid at the intended school will also be able to assist in preparing the necessary documents. CPC will provide all necessary service related documents for the application process, upon request.
- Transferability: The Post-9/11 GI Bill allows service members to transfer their benefits to immediate family members if [certain criteria are met](#).
[Process Summary](#)
- Periodic Changes to the GI Bill Programs: VA lists changes to program benefits on the GI Bill [website](#).

CPC Point of Contact:

Service Records & Transferability: Chief, Officer Personnel Management Division, Gregory.Raymond@noaa.gov

CPC Online Resources:

- 02 September 2011 – Message from the Director, CPC – GI Bill Transferability (to be posted soon)